LISTING OF CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently amended)** A purified interferon-α polypeptide, comprising

a first amino acid sequence consisting of residues 1-75 of interferon-α21b;

a second amino acid sequence consisting of residues 76-81 of interferon-α2c or residues 76-81 of interferon-α21b;

a third amino acid sequence consisting of the sequence LDKFXTELXQQLND (SEQ ID NO: 43) or the sequence LEKFXTELXQQLND (SEQ ID NO: 44), wherein X is any amino acid residue; and

a fourth amino acid sequence consisting of residues 96-166 of interferon-α2c;

wherein the hybrid interferon-α polypeptide has interferon-α protein biological activity.

2. **(Previously presented)** The purified interferon-α polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the second amino acid sequence consists of residues 76-81 of interferon-α2c.

3. **(Previously presented)** The purified interferon-α polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the second amino acid sequence consists of residues 76-81 of interferon-α21b.

4. **(Currently amended)** The purified interferon-α polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the third amino acid sequence consists of the sequence LDKFXTELXQQLND (SEQ ID NO: 43).

5. **(Currently amended)** The purified interferon-α polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the third amino acid sequence consists of the sequence LEKFXTELXQQLND (SEQ ID NO: 44).

6. **(Currently amended)** The hybrid interferon polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the second amino acid sequence consists of residues 76-81 of interferon-α2c and the third amino acid sequence consists of the sequence LEKFXTELXQQLND (SEQ ID NO: 44).

7. **(Previously presented)** The hybrid interferon-α polypeptide according to claim 6, comprising an amino acid sequence with a structure M-N-O-P, wherein M consists of amino acid residues 1-75 of interferon-α21b, N consists of amino acid residues 76 to 81 of interferon-α2c, O consists of amino

acid residues 82 to 95 of interferon-α21b, and P consists of amino acid residues 96 to 166 of interferon-α2c.

8. **(Currently amended)** The hybrid interferon-α polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the second amino acid sequence consists of residues 76-81 of interferon-α2c and the third amino acid sequence consists of the sequence LDKFXTELXQQLND (SEQ ID NO: 43).

9. **(Currently amended)** The hybrid interferon-α polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the second amino acid sequence consists of residues wherein the second amino acid sequence consists of residues 76-81 of interferon-α21b and the third amino acid sequence consists of the sequence LDKFXTELXQQLND (SEQ ID NO: 43).

10. **(Previously presented)** The hybrid interferon-α polypeptide according to claim 1, comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 9, 11, 30, 32, 36, 38, 40, and 42.

11. **(Previously presented)** The hybrid interferon-α polypeptide according to claim 10, wherein the sequence is selected from the group consisting of an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 9, 32, 36, and 38.

12. **(Previously presented)** The hybrid interferon-α polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the second amino acid sequence consists of amino acid residues 76-95 of interferon-α2c.

13. **(Previously presented)** The hybrid interferon-α polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the second amino acid sequence consists of amino acid residues 76-95 of interferon-α21b.

14. **(Currently amended)** The hybrid interferon-α polypeptide according to claim 8, wherein the second amino acid sequence consists of residues wherein the second amino acid sequence consists of residues 76-81 of interferon-α21b and the third amino acid sequence consists of the sequence LEKFXTELXQQLND (SEQ ID NO: 44).

15. **(Previously presented)** A nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide according to claim 1.

16. **(Original)** A recombinant vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 15.

17. **(Original)** A cell transformed with the recombinant vector according to claim 16.

18. **(Previously presented)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising:
a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or carrier; and
at least one hybrid interferon-α polypeptide according to claim 1.

19-23. **(Cancelled).**

24. **(Previously presented)** A nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide according to claim 10.

25. **(Previously presented)** A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 24, having a nucleic acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8, 10, 29, 31, 35, 37, 39, or 41.

26. **(Previously presented)** A recombinant vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 24.

27. **(Previously presented)** A cell transformed with the recombinant vector according to claim 26.

28. **(Previously presented)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising:
a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or carrier; and
at least one hybrid interferon-α polypeptide according to claim 10.